world's supply. Ramie provides most of the material for China's "grass cloth." A number of other plants are cultivated for their fibre, among them hemp and jute.

It must also be noted that a great deal of tobacco is grown, in which, whatever its solace, there is no food value, and that of late years much land has been given over to the raising of the opium poppy—a serious economic waste, with disastrous moral and physical concomitants.

In addition to producing a wide variety of plants, the Chinese are noted for their slight dependence upon meat and animal products for food. They appear never to have cared for butter or cheese, and have made almost no use of cow's or goat's milk. In North China the amount of meat consumed per capita seems to be only about a sixth of that in France, a tenth of that in the United States, and even only about half of that in Japan, where much the same economy exists. In the main this is a saving. Whether it was entered upon intentionally as a matter of principle, gradually arrived at through more or less unconsciously recognized experience, or purely by accident, need not here concern us. To use the products of the field directly for human food without the waste of first passing them through the digestive processes of an intermediary animal obviously effects an economy in the area needed to support a given number of human beings. The Chinese diet has not been entirely lacking in meat. Most of it, however, has been derived from fish, which take up no land, and from pigs and chickens, which are in part scavengers and hence not a full charge upon food otherwise available for man. In at least one region thrifty fanners effect a further saving by planting their irrigation pools to fish and gathering their harvest

in the autumn after the water is no longer needed on the fields. Ducks and geese are also widely raised. Mutton and beef are used, but in relatively small quantities. Some animals, we have seen, are utilized to assist man in his work—the water buffalo in the Yangtze Valley and the South, the donkey, the horse, the mule, and the ox in the North. All these, however, seem to average less than one to a farm.

Yet in spite of their independence of flesh and animal products, the Chinese have achieved a fairly well balanced diet. This again has probably not been through scientific method but by chance